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DOCKET NO.: MSFT-1749/302725.01
Application No.: 10/646,941
Office Action Dated: August 4, 2006

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PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1-84 are pending. Claims 1-84 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 51, and 68 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 14, and 27 of co-pending Application No. 10/646,940. Claims 1, 14, and 27 of co-pending Application No. 10/646,940 have been recently amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the provisional nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18, 33-59, 62-76, and 79-84 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by D'Andrea & Janus ("UniSQL's Next-Generation Object-Relational Database Management System"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18, 33-59, 62-76, and 79-84 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The claims are directed to manipulating units of information, referred to as Items. As claimed, each Item has a boundary comprising an item type, applicable subtype information, complex type properties and extensions if any, and a list of the other Items owned by the Item (see application, as originally filed, at paragraph [0101], for example). D'Andrea does not teach or suggest the boundaries for the objects as claimed.

The Office Action states that D'Andrea does not explicitly disclose the boundaries (Office Action, page 5, section 15). However, the Office Action then states that D'Andrea may be interpreted to anticipate the boundaries as defined in paragraphs [0327]-[0330] of the present application. The Office Action notes that the objects in D'Andrea may be as simple as a single binary bit or as complex as an aircraft carrier, and are defined in terms of other objects. D'Andrea also discloses that attributes are provided to describe the objects (page 72, second paragraph), and four object extensions to SQL along with a directed acyclic graph data model (page 71, last paragraph).

However, the boundaries are explicitly defined in the claims as comprising "an item type, applicable subtype information, complex type properties and extensions if any, and a list of the other Items owned by the Item". Although the objects in D'Andrea may be defined in terms of other objects, and attributes may be provided to describe the objects, these general features do not teach or suggest boundaries comprising (1) an item type, (2) applicable subtype information, (3) complex type properties and extensions if any, and (4) a list of the

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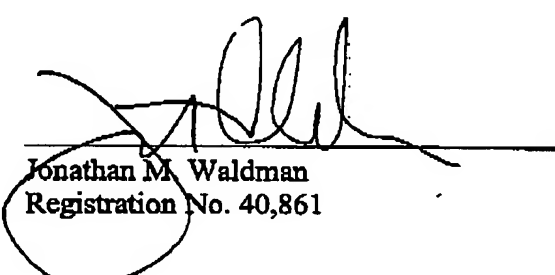
other items owned by the Item, all of which are specifically recited in the claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that D'Andrea does not teach or suggest the boundaries as recited in claims 1, 51, and 68.

Claims 2-18 and 33-50 are dependent from claim 1, claims 52-59 and 62-67 are dependent from claim 51, and claims 69-76 and 79-84 are dependent from claim 68, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-18, 33-59, 62-76, and 79-84 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-32, 60, 61, 77, and 78 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over D'Andrea in view of Barker ("Beginning Java Objects"). Claims 19-32 are dependent from claim 1, claims 60 and 61 are dependent from claim 51, and claims 77 and 78 are dependent from claim 68, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Barker fails to cure the deficiencies of D'Andrea. Barker describes software objects, object modeling, and Java applications, but does not disclose or suggest boundaries for the objects, as claimed. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 19-32, 60, 61, 77, and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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